



HALE AHI NEWS

December 2004



HFD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October - December 2004

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Saturday, January 1, 2005**
New Year's Day
- **Monday, January 17, 2005**
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- **Saturday, February 19, 2005**
68th Annual HFD Credit Union Dinner
Hilton Hawaiian Village
Coral Ballroom
5:30 p.m. Business Meeting
6:30 p.m. Dinner
- **Monday, February 21, 2005**
Presidents' Day Holiday
- **Friday, February 25, 2005**
Retirees Appreciation Day
Training Center 8:30 am-1:00 pm
- **Saturday, March 5, 2005**
HFD Retirement Dinner
Washington Place
6:00-10:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 12, 2005**
HFD Firemens Fund Annual Dinner
The Willows Restaurant
6:00 p.m. Cocktails
6:30 p.m. Meeting
7:00 p.m. Dinner
- **Friday, March 25, 2005**
Prince Kuhio Day
Good Friday
- **March 2005—TBA**
HFD Retirees Association
Quarterly Meeting
HFD Training Center
9:30 a.m.

3rd Annual Fire Operations November Competition

Operations at Their Best by Maili Simmons

The first year of any event is usually the one in which participants need to be flexible and expect anything. The second year incorporates all the strengths and weaknesses learned from the previous year. By the third year, patterns are established and participants can really get into the spirit of competition. The November Competition is no exception.

The first year of the competition was met with considerable resistance because no one knew what to expect. The second year was more successful, but still going through its growing pains. This, the third year of November Competition, has really brought out the best in all the battalions. There was an increased amount of enthusiasm toward the events and the overall competition was fierce.

There was a need for a system to assess the Honolulu Fire Department's skills in using new equipment, as well as its ability to respond to real emergencies before those occasions occur. That is when the idea of holding an annual competition was developed. Assistant Chief Wassman and Battalion Chiefs William Kaai and James Perkins worked out the logistics in November 2002, the first year the competition took place. This competition serves to highlight the fundamental tasks and keep day-to-day skills and drills from becoming too routine.

This year's set up of events was not that different from last year. The Automobile Extrication and Hose Buster Events basically remained the same. Trauma Patient Care expanded to Medical Operations and Decon Set-up expanded to Decon Operations. The greatest change was in the Apparatus Rodeo event. From a relatively simple course, on actual Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC), the Apparatus Rodeo evolved to include new props created by the Driver Training Section and an Accident

Avoidance Obstacle in which the driver was not told which way to go until the last moment.

This year's competition showed great improvement in the personnel reactions to participating in the various events. Previous events were reminiscent of the old TV comedies where, when the leader asks for volunteers, the group took one-step back leaving the unsuspecting



Ladder 18/2 personnel performing at the Medical Patient Assessment Event.

"volunteer." In other words, personnel weren't very eager to participate. This year's competition revealed a complete about-face in that people were eager to represent their company/battalion in competition . . . and competition was intense. With many of the difficulties of running such a competition being resolved, participants were free to focus on their actual events in the spirit of competition.

The companies prepared themselves throughout the year through practical drills, reviewing of manual, texts, and other reference materials that were made available, as well as vehicles at the Training Center to practice Amkus techniques, use of the drafting pits at the Training Center and Mechanic Shop. Teamwork was a big part of the success at the November Competition.

See November Competition, page 3



**PRIDE, SERVICE,
DEDICATION**

**Honolulu Fire Department
Attilio K. Leonardi
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Hale Ahi News

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Honolulu Fire Department is to respond to fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues on land and sea to save lives, property, and the environment. We accomplish this mission by:

- Promoting safety and maintaining a well equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional fire fighters and rescue personnel.
- Promoting fire prevention and other public safety education programs.

Vision Statement

The Honolulu Fire Department will continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF ...

In a follow up to my article concerning the Training Center last quarter, I am pleased to report that on October 28, 2004, President George Bush signed Public Law #108-375, which states, "The Secretary of the Navy may convey, without consideration but subject to the conditions specified in subsection (b), to the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 5.16 acres located at 890 Valkenburgh Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii..." In brief, this means the Department now owns the Charles H. Thurston Training Center and Moku-lele Fire Station in fee (no cost for the property; only administrative transfer fees). We have already requested \$1.35 million in FY05-06 CIP's budget to plan, design, and expand the Training Center.

As we close another year, we can be proud of our numerous accomplishments. But in order to continue to move



our Department forward, some of the major projects to be taken on next year include:

- Working with the new City Administration to make them aware of our needs.
- Negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement.
- Reaccrediting the Department (site team visit scheduled for April 2005).
- Completing Phase 2 of our certification program, which will include Fire Fighter II and Hazard Materials Operations level certifications.

- Upgrading to the 800 MHz radio system.
- Issuing pack radios to all fire fighters at a fire scene as a safety measure.
- Computers for each fire truck.
- Completing the new HFD Headquarters and educational museum.
- Updating the Department's strategic plan.
- Continuing to expand our EMS duties.
- Working with the City Council to retrofit all residential high-rise buildings with automatic fire sprinkler systems.
- Pursuing grants to upgrade our equipment and services.
- Continuing our aggressive training programs to better prepare our personnel.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making the Honolulu Fire Department the first class organization that it is today and being the best department in the City. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.



Honolulu City Lights

The HFD Christmas tree displayed at Honolulu Hale was designed and constructed by the crew of Engine 10, 3rd Platoon. Mahalo to Captain Lee Muller, FFIII Mel Oshio, and FF1s Reid Yoshida, Ross Takata, and Kevin Neves. Special mahalo to Alvin Kajioka of Hagadone Printing and Carolyn Fujioka of State Farm Insurance Company for their very generous donations. (Photo provided by FF2 D. Letarte.)

November Competition

Continued from page 1

As with many competitions of this type, the greatest benefit is the opportunity to see areas for improvement in the Department's ability to render the best possible service to the community. November Competition did reveal areas in which we could use some improvement. Equipment type, condition, and use are always factors.

Another area that became evident is the need for a universal method of operations. Each company had its own ways of dealing with situations at hand. For example, during the medical trauma competition, one of the companies removed the shirt of a "victim" to assess injuries, while another left the shirt on. This may seem trivial, but if a recall fire fighter is temporarily assigned to another company for his recall shift, the lack of a universal way of doing things may result in unnecessary delays, or even injury. There must be a universal protocol for Operations in general, uniform enough for a recall fire fighter to slip easily into another company's day-to-day operations, yet flexible enough to be effective in specific emergencies.

This concept is developed in greater detail from the Lessons Learned and the

evaluations. Lessons Learned is one of the most important reasons for the November Competition. It is a way to see a microcosm of the day-to-day operations in the Department as a whole through each of its companies/battalions. It should be seen as an opportunity for growth rather reason to criticize. It is a system of finding proactive solutions to possible problems in the Department's operations. The companies representing each battalion reflect the work put in by their respective Battalion Chief throughout the year.

Working hand-in-hand with the Training and Research Bureau to hold these events is a big part of the November Competition. Mahalo Training Bureau! In addition, I truly believe gratitude goes to the Fire Operations staff for their continued efforts in keeping the November Competition up-to-date through their observations, finding ways to improve the effectiveness of the Department by obtaining essential equipment, and improving the skills of our personnel. Praise at the conclusion of the events encourages the personnel to strive for improvement and to be the best that they can be. This will enable us to live up to the Department's motto Pride, Service, Dedication. We look forward to next year's competition and "raising the bar" to an even higher level. The results are:

Overall Battalion Winner

Battalion 1/1, BC William Kaai

Best of the 1st Platoon

Battalion 1/1, BC William Kaai

Best of the 2nd Platoon

Battalion 1/2, BC James Perkins

Best of the 3rd Platoon

Battalion 4/3, BC Eric Adams

Individual Event Champions:

Auto Extrication:

Quint 31/1, Captain Bruce Spear, FF3 Rex Nohara, Jay Nourrie, Simeon Alo, Jeremy Cole

Trauma Care:

Engine 42/2, A/Captain Eric Abella, Duane Albrecht, Andrew Fukuda, Adrian Romero

Technical Decon:

Ladder 17/2 Captain Paul Kato, Daniel Yamashiro, Joseph Kostiha, Brent Takemoto

Apparatus Rodeo:

Engine 25/1, Captain Edward Oda, Mark Kuwaye, Gregory Andrasick, Jason Park

Hose Buster:

E31/2 A/Captain Brandon Fernandez, Jack Crouse, Paul McGhiey, Steven Newton

Congratulations to all!

HFD 2004 RETIREES BANQUET

For the sixth consecutive year, the HFD will honor its retirees at a special dinner banquet. This year's event will be on Saturday, March 5, 2005, at Washington Place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Our own FireHouse band, consisting of lead singer Lance Orillo, bassist Vernon Enriques, guitarist Lee Muller, and saxophonist extraordinaire Bill Beimes, will provide the evening's entertainment. All retirees will receive a Maltese cross koa plaque, fire fighter helmet, congratulatory certificate, and color photograph.

The honorees and their families will join Fire Chief Attilio Leonardi and Deputy Fire Chief John Clark for a commemorative photograph. A group photograph will also be taken.

This year's video promises to be the evening's highlight and will feature pictures of each retiree that span at least 25 years. Bill Melemai and Kawika Morgan are again working to create an entertaining presentation.

The Fire Prevention Bureau, headed by Battalion Chief Lloyd Rogers, is coordinating this year's event. Each retiree and one guest may attend at no charge, compliments of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association and Friends of the Firehouse. The cost for other guests, family, and friends is \$30 per person. Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, February 16, 2005.

Make your reservations now with Brendalyn Hankins or Janine Leong-Lau at 831-7765 or 831-7764, respectively.



COMMENDATIONS



The HFD receives many letters of appreciation and commendation recognizing various fire fighters/ companies for going above and beyond the call of duty. The following are excerpts from the letters received in the 2nd quarter.

Detective Vip Kanchanamongkol of the LAPD and his wife were vacationing on Oahu and were involved in a major traffic collision on Kamehameha Highway near Kaneohe. Acting Captain (A/C) Ken Heim and the Engine 37/1 crew responded to the scene. The rental vehicle was so badly damaged that it was inoperable and had to be towed. A/C Heim assisted the Detective in contacting the rental car company in an attempt to obtain another vehicle, and also provided his personal cellular phone number with instructions to call him if the company failed to deliver the replacement vehicle. A/C Heim went above and beyond the norm by offering the use of his personal vehicle if they were unable to provide him a replacement. Detective Kanchanamongkol writes, "I was touched at Ken's offer. It is not often that I see this level of compassion and professionalism. I would like to commend Fire Fighter III Ken Heim for his professionalism, outstanding service and most of all his compassion. I would also like to commend all other Fire Department personnel involved in this incident for their professionalism and outstanding service. The conduct displayed by all personnel involved in this incident exemplified the highest standard of any Public Safety agency that I have witnessed."

Mrs. M. Freitas thanked the fire fighters of the Wailupe Fire Station (2nd Platoon) for assisting her daughter who was experiencing a medical emergency at the Aina Haina Shopping Center. "I would like to single out firefighter Nalu Akaka (David) for his actions. Although firefighter Akaka does not know me, he recognized (my daughter) from our family camping trips and made calls to help find me. If it were not for his actions, I might not have found out what had happened for several more hours. I know firefighters would say that is 'just part of their jobs,' but I believe Nalu's actions went beyond his normal duties."

Ms. Lynette Char also wrote to thank the fire fighters of the Wailupe Fire Station, 2nd Platoon, who responded to her residence after a guest of her home "drove" her car into the garage wall and crashed open the front doors to her house. "What a mess! After the police completed their investigation, your men cleaned up for me. I so very much appreciated all that they did. It was a very rainy, windy morning and they worked in the rain! Please extend my sincere appreciation to them."

John Barkai, Professor of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, commends Captain Nathan Kapule and the fire fighters of Station 5 for a wonderful presentation. He writes, "I have been a professor at the University of Hawaii for over 25 years and have seen (and done) a lot of teaching. The presentations made at Station 5 are educational masterpieces. Nathan and his crew are sincere and very interesting. They make a presentation at a level that the children can easily understand, and still include fun and interesting information for adults."

PRIDE, SERVICE, DEDICATION

WAIKIKI FIRE STATION FIRE PREVENTION WEEK ACTIVITIES

By Fire Fighter Sebastian Sheldon



The fire fighters at Station 7 pulled out all the stops during Fire Prevention Week to give visiting students and teachers an experience to remember. The Director of Aiea Hongwanji Preschool, Deborah Oshiro, was so enthusiastic about

their school's visit that she wrote a letter to Battalion Chief James Arciero and Station 7's first platoon fire fighters to express her gratitude. In part, she wrote, "I must commend you for your time, patience, and dedication to share your knowledge with our three- and four-year-old students (63 of them). As we returned to school, students were still talking about their experience."

While every station works hard to put on a great show for visiting children, Chief Arciero notes that the guys at Station 7 go out of their way to make the keiki's educational experience extra special. The Waikiki Fire Station fire

fighters have purchased extra stuff like a \$300 Sparky the Fire Dog outfit and have repaired a remote control Dalmatian driving fire truck that speaks (via cell phone), drives, and moves its head. "All this aloha and Ladder 7 is the HFD's third or fourth busiest company," Chief Arciero commented.

Ms. Oshiro thanked all the fire fighters individually, including Captains Dave Dela Cruz and Nick Akau, FF3s Beejee Mahoe and Gerald Pacheco, FF2 Conrad Nakamoto, and FF1s Kaneala Sheldon, Ray Uyeno, Boy Lopes, Dyrion Ota, and Kevin Miller.

Rescue Watercraft Program

by Fire Fighter III Brian Coughlin

The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) began using jet-type rescue watercrafts (RWC) in 1997, when B34 and B27 were placed into service. The following RWCs later joined the fleet: B21 (Sea Doo Explorer, commonly referred to as a jet boat); B18 and B26 (two-stroke Kawasaki 900 jet skis); and two four-stroke Yamaha Waverunners that will replace B34 and B26 in 2004. The Department operates jets boats and jet skis. A jet boat transports more passengers than a jet ski can, but a jet ski is faster and can effect a rescue quicker. With an experienced crew, either craft can perform a rescue.

With the receipt of the jet boats, the HFD started training personnel in the late 1990s to maximize their effectiveness in rescues. From then to 2003, Fire Fighter (FF) III Jeffrey Barbieto led the familiarization and training programs for the companies that would be involved in emergency response with an RWC. He also obtained several of the newer Kawasaki jet skis through a loaner program that he arranged. In

2001, FFII Trevor Wilson and FFI Jay Nourrie also assisted with the training. Several current RWC Instructors were trained through this program.

In 2004, the HFD's jet ski training evolved into the RWC Training Program, which is part of the HFD's Surface Water Rescue Program. Through the tireless efforts of Battalion Chief Lionel Camara Jr. and Fire Fighter IIIs Brian Coughlin and George Kaopuiki, the HFD's RWC Manual and instructional information were developed. Mr. Brian Keaulana, a retired City Lifeguard Captain and legendary waterman, trained nine instructors. The Training and Research Bureau (TRB) conducted two RWC Field Operator courses during September-October 2004, and successfully trained 53 individuals. The program's success will depend on how these personnel maintain their skills and mentor those who have not had the

opportunity to attend an RWC Field Operator course.

RWC training begins with classroom instruction on program specifics. After operators become familiar with the program content, instruction moves to the field. Each field day begins with preparing equipment and supplies. Upon arrival at the training site, the first lesson of the day is ocean risk management. Determining and recognizing the hazards of a site or situation enables operators to accomplish a mission safely and effectively. The students warm up with a short swim or jog before proceeding with the day's lessons, which include rescue pickups, precision operating skills, and holding a surf zone. Ocean drills continue until 1600 hours, and each field day ends with equipment maintenance and a debriefing of the day's activities.

The RWC Program's goal is to complete a series of four classes. Two classes of 108 personnel have already been trained through the program. We are also proposing a training program for those who may be called upon to work with an RWC.

Our main goal is to provide training for our personnel so that they may provide quality service to the public.



Civilian Corner Sherri Perreira

Senior Clerk Typist - Training and Research Bureau



Whenever you enter the Training Center's office you will always be greeted with a smile. Sherri Perreira has been with the HFD for 17 years and says what she

likes best about the Training and Research Bureau and working for the Department is "...the people, it's like a big ohana. I like everything about the Department." As a Senior Clerk Typist, her main responsibilities are editing and proofreading "everything" for the various sections of the TRB.

Before coming to work for the HFD, Sherri was a homemaker and is the proud mother of three adults. "They're all grown now. I have a daughter, two sons, and three granddaughters ages 10, 5, and 4." Sherri spends most of her time off with her

daughter and granddaughters. "We spend a lot of time together doing things with the kids. My 10-year old granddaughter plays soccer so we go to all her games; we also enjoy going to the movies and other children-oriented events. My other interests include attending major drag racing events and professional bull-riding events on the mainland - in fact, I am looking forward to a trip we are planning to Las Vegas next year."

So, if you are ever at the Training Center, stop by and say hello. You will always be greeted with a smile from Sherri.

“At Scene, In Command”

by Fire Captain Jerry Spencer

This is Fire Captain Jerry Spencer's seventh article in a series of interviews to acquaint readers with the Chief Officers that guide the HFD.

Interview with Battalion Chief Clinton Wong on 12/05/2004, at Battalion One Headquarters.



HAN: Chief Wong, thank you for agreeing to do this interview. I've asked the same questions in previous interviews so I would like to ask where were you born, where you grew up, and what schools did you attend?

BC Wong: Well, I was born here in Honolulu. I attended a Catholic school, St. Anthony's in Kailua, and from there went to St. Louis High School where I graduated. I then attended Honolulu Community College and got my AS degree in Fire Science and a Liberal Arts degree. I continued school for a while longer but decided that it wasn't my path.

HAN: So, you grew up in Kailua?

BC Wong: I grew up in Waimanalo on homestead land.

HAN: What did you do after college?

BC Wong: After college I enlisted in the Navy. I spent some time in training school and learned how to ride riverboats in Vietnam for a year. Then, I was assigned to the fleet on an ocean tug for the next two years.

HAN: What were your assignments throughout your career in the HFD?

BC Wong: After getting out of the service, I enter the Department in 1971 and was first assigned to Engine 6. I came in with Darryl Freeman, Arthur

Ugalde, Warren Mueller, and Chief Leonard. We were all in the same recruit class. After Engine 6, as if I didn't have enough in the military, I was assigned to the Fireboat. When the HFD split into the three-platoon system, I was reassigned to Ladder 4. Then, I got promoted to Chief's Aide here at Central. Battalion Chief Kaai was my counterpart and Mark Hoomalu and John Amadeo were also here. Six months later, I got promoted again to FF3. At that time, they called you a Fire Equipment Operator. My first assignment as a FEO III was at Station 25. I wanted to move closer to home so I moved to Station 23, Waiupe. My family and I lived in Hawaii Kai at the time. I decided that it wasn't as challenging as I thought it would be and so I transferred to Station 22 and then to Station 4. In 1982, I was promoted to Captain. Hurricane Iwa was my first day as a Captain at Station 7. One year later, I went to the Training Bureau where we opened up the new Training Center. I was with them for two years. After that, I went to Snorkel 9 then back to Ladder 4, to Central [Engine 1], and back again to Ladder 4. From there, I was reassigned upstairs to an intern position and then promoted to Battalion Chief and assigned to the 3rd Battalion/3rd Platoon. I was then blessed again and reassigned to the 1st Battalion/3rd Platoon.

HAN: What made you decide to join the HFD?

BC Wong: I was looking for a secure job and a way to feed my family. A big influence, of course, was my family. I had three brothers already in the Department. Anthony [retired Captain], Garret [retired Captain], and Joseph [retired FF1]. Chief Mueller was another big influence. He said, "You guys better get in here and get a job and be part of this Department."

HAN: What has been the most memorable event for you in the firehouse?

BC Wong: I believe it was becoming a Battalion Chief. Having the responsibility or influence in getting personnel to be their best; to be able to instill your philosophy and to make a difference; to chal-

lenge personnel to make a difference so they can be the best they can be and to perform at their highest level. And as a Battalion Chief, it means being the best that you are.

HAN: What would be something that you would like to hand down or leave this Department?

BC Wong: When people see or remember you, they remember you as a person who cared about their people, their personnel, and was able to be the type of person that showed some leadership. Hopefully, they will see me as a Battalion Chief who cared about them and made sure they always returned home to their families. If they needed anything, I would be there to help them, and also a Battalion Chief who made a difference to his battalion.

HAN: What is the most important message you would like to say to the fire fighters?

BC Wong: They should challenge themselves to be the best that they can be. Always be prepared in everything that they do. Ultimately, make a difference so they can serve the public to the best of their ability. Show that they care.

End of Interview



RETIREEES' REALM

All retired members are welcome to join fellow retirees as members of the Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association.

Historical Info: The Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association was formed by retired HFD members to provide an organization for retirees to gather for camaraderie and fellowship with each other and to provide information on many issues that may or will affect a retiree; i.e., retirement benefits, legislative bills, social security, Medicare and Medicaid programs, Federal and State benefits and programs, etc. Retirees are not represented by the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (Union), however, the Retirees Association has actively worked with the Union to address retirement issues and to assist in the protection of retirement benefits. The Retirees Association and its members support the Union.

Legislative Update: The current legislative session has ended and will reopen in mid-January 2005.

Quarterly Meeting: The next HFD Retirees Association quarterly meeting will be held in March 2005. The date will be announced later. All members and new retirees and their spouses are welcome to attend the meetings, which are held at the HFD Training Center. Annual dues are \$5.

Correspondence: The association welcomes any correspondence from HFD retirees. You may update your current residence, pass on any information you wish to share with your fellow retirees, or provide input for our column in the HFD Newsletter, Hale Ahi News. Contact retired Fire Chief Donald Chang at (808) 487-8862.

Employer-Union Trust Fund: For any benefit information call: Oahu: 586-7390 or Toll Free: 1-800-295-0089, email: eutf@hawaii.gov, or go to the website: www.eutf.Hawaii.gov.

Medicare Plan "B": There will be an increase of about 17.4% in the Medicare (Part B) premiums in the year 2005. The rate will be \$78.20 per month. For more info, check the website at www.medicare.gov.

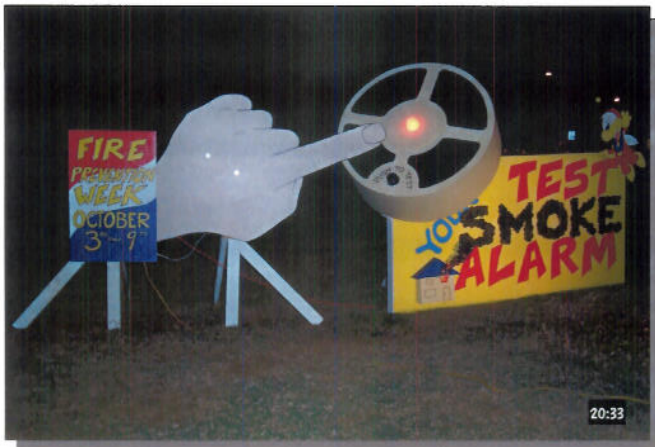
HFD Retirees Association Shirt: New shirts will be made for 2005. Contact retired Fire Chief Donald Chang at (808) 487-8862.

Retirees Appreciation Day: Fire Chief Leonardi and the Friends of the Fire House, a nonprofit organization, are hosting the third Retirees Appreciation Day on February 25, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Training Center. All retirees are welcome to attend and see what your Department has done and where it is headed. A half-day event with an update from the Fire Chief, new equipment display and demonstration, and a luau lunch with music from FireHouse. Come and enjoy meeting old and new friends.

LAST ALARM		
ASST. CHIEF FRANCIS K. SING October 3, 2004 Appointed January 1, 1954 25 years Last Assignment - AC of Fire Operations	FIRE CAPTAIN ARTHUR E. AH LOO October 28, 2004 Appointed January 13, 1942 31 years Last Assignment - Engine 20	FIRE CAPTAIN ARNOLD E. KUFFERATH November 27, 2004 Appointed March 16, 1939 32 years Last Assignment - Engine 14

Fire Prevention Week Display

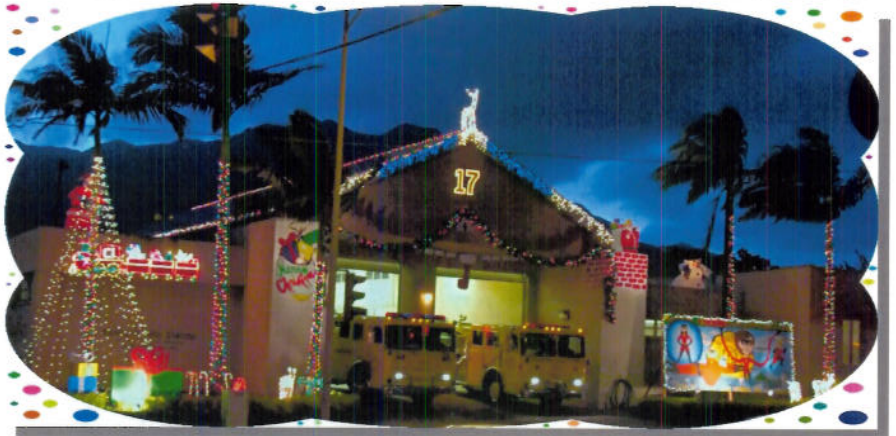
This year's Fire Prevention Week Display Contest was held on October 3-9, 2004. Three finalists from each of the five battalions were submitted by their respective Battalion Chiefs for best conveying this year's theme, "Test Your Smoke Alarm," artistic design and composition, and originality. After the final judging and selection of the winners, awards were distributed at the October Staff Meeting. Congratulations to the winners and to all personnel for a job well done.



HFD CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS

This year, the HFD's Christmas display theme was "Have a Fire Safe Holiday Season." Stations competed for three prizes: 1st Place-\$300, 2nd Place-\$150, and 3rd Place-\$50. Displays are on view from December 6-January 7. Pride, Service, and Dedication were demonstrated to the communities that we serve and the safety message was displayed in an artful and entertaining manner. Congratulations to all personnel for the awesome displays.

1st Place
Station 17
KANEOHE



2nd Place
Station 40
KAPOLEI



3rd Place
Station 9
KAKAAKO



Kaimi Pelekai and the Honolulu Boy Choir by Fire Captain Kenui Spencer

Like many of our fire fighters who unselfishly volunteer their time and kokua in support of our community, FF1 Kaimi Pelekai (Q26/2) is one who exemplifies this tradition. For the last five years, Kaimi has been the Choral Director for the Honolulu Boy Choir, a local non-profit organization dedicated to its Mission Statement: **"To be a unique and talented choir representing the diverse ethnic and cultural heritage of the islands while musically educating and training the young men of Hawai'i to be the very best."** "It's the singular, 'Boy', The Honolulu Boy Choir," said Kaimi. There is an emphasis on "Boy" instead of "Boys" as the founder of the Choir, Roy Hallman, wanted to impress that the boys in the choir "sound like one boy." And anyone who has seen or heard the Boy Choir sing and dance will agree that their performances are strong in pitch, tone, and harmony, accentuated with timely dance routines, and performed with coordination, precision, and lots of smiles. ☺

A graduate of Kamehameha Schools, Class of 1996, Kaimi began his career with the choir as a performer at age 8 and continued until age 11. "My parents chose music over sports for me. So, when I was young I took piano, ukulele, I sang...they sort of pushed me in that direction." Kaimi was appointed to the Choir staff in 1999. "As the Choral Director, I am in charge of picking the music, teaching the music, and leading the Choir when we perform. It is the most fun position because you get to work directly with the kids, you get to be out there when they perform, you get all the accolades from the audience, and everybody enjoys the Choir. Last night [12/01/04], we had a concert at the Outrigger Reef Hotel, in the lobby, and the audience just fully enjoyed it. People have been coming to watch the choir for the last 15-20 years at Christmas...they make it a tradition when they come here to try to find the Choir. It's a good experience. Just like how other fire fighters give back and coach sports...it's almost

the same thing. You give back to what taught you your life's lessons growing up. So, when somebody asked me to help out, I couldn't say no."

Today, there are approximately 70 boys [largest membership being over 200] ranging from ages 7-14 with a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Since 1974, the choir has entertained for audiences throughout Hawaii, the mainland USA, and the world, including Australia, Japan, and Canada. The choir's repertoire consists of contemporary, ethnic, folk, traditional, and inspirational songs, ancient and contemporary hula and other



cultural dances. "We've had people send us music to learn and we sang it for them ...some businessmen from Australia wanted us to sing for them and at the end we had to sing two songs... Waltzing Matilda and the Australian National Anthem...we learned the anthem in two weeks." said Kaimi.

The Choir is not a large non-profit organization so they depend on support from the community and parents. "We rely on donations from concerts... parents' support and audience support. Once in a while, we get a few grants and we get businesses to give us the money we need." Throughout the year, the Choir plan their performances, however, they also perform upon request. Sometimes the performances are influenced by the season or driven by events. "This past May, we went to the World War II Memorial Dedication in Washington D. C. The Choir was invited to participate in the festival and we were strapped for money. The kids and staff had to pay out of their pockets. So, we went out and campaigned and some businesses really came up, saved us, and we were able to go. It was a good experience for the kids. To be an organization that represents Hawaii during that weekend at that celebration was important and

memorable for the kids. And if it wasn't for the people who stepped up and gave us \$1000, \$500, even \$10 we wouldn't have been able to go."

The Mayor of Honolulu often calls upon the Choir to represent the City. Two of the events the Choir performed at were the "Brunch on the Beach" and the "Tree Lighting Ceremony" at Honolulu Hale. Other events include private and public groups, weddings, birthdays, conventions, and memorial services. Some of the events the Boy Choir will appear at this Christmas and next year are Central Union Church, Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Oahu Country Club, and the Hawaii Country Club. Says Kaimi, "Christmas time is our busiest time but this year is slow. We have 16 concerts in 20 days." If that's a slow year, I can only imagine what it is like when it's busy.

The Honolulu Boy Choir is a *tuition-free* program open to all boys ages 7-14 and provides training in music performance. As a member, boys will also learn the values of responsibility, camaraderie, and leadership. To contact The Honolulu Boy Choir call 596-SING [7464] or visit their website at www.honoluluboychoir.org.

Aloha Anson "Slim" Ilae



After serving since May 1997, Anson "Slim" Ilae is shown on his last day as a Fire Commissioner with Chief Leonardi and the other Fire Commissioners and staff. Slim was appointed as the first chairperson of the first Honolulu Fire Commission. Jacob Ng will take Slim's place in January 2005.

Omega Station Graffiti Paint Out

Fire Fighter III Eric Capllonch was traveling the H-3 freeway quite frequently in 2002, and would often admire the beautiful view of the Kaneohe Bay and Haiku Valley below. The only thing marring the breathtaking scenery was the old Coast Guard Omega Station; located in the center of the valley, it was covered in graffiti...what an eyesore! As it was beyond his control to remove the building, he thought about what was in his control to remedy the situation: the station could be painted. On that very day, Battalion Chief Clinton Wong asked for ideas for community service projects that the battalion could get involved in. Eric mentioned his idea to Captain Geoffrey Chang, L18/3, who forwarded it to Chief Wong. That got the ball rolling. In the summer of 2002, with assistance from the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHH) and personal contributions from Chief Wong, Captain Sigmund Oka, and participating fire fighters, the Omega Station was cleaned up.

Over the past two years, graffiti has once again appeared on the station. With the full support of Captain Sigmund Oka, Eric made contact with the DHH. Land Management Agent, Sam Moku, is also a member of the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board, and was able to obtain a donation through another Board Member, Patty Yamashiro. The Yamashiro Building Supply in Kaneohe agreed to provide all the paint and supplies for the project. With Captain Oka's assistance, the Battalion 3/3 fire fighters were contacted and BC Jim Skellington generously donated monies for the food and refreshments.

On October 23, 2004, fire fighters began painting. Members of the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board, along with volunteers from the Friends of Haiku Stairs, cleaned up the surrounding area of the Omega Station at the same time. A local historian gave a presentation on the history of the valley and shared a map depicting the ancient heiau in the area. It turned out to be a very fulfilling and rewarding day for all.

Mahalo to Captains Sigmund Oka and Kevin Akiona, Fire Fighters Eric Capllonch, Scotty Jacobs, James Sutherland, Edmund McShane, Kris Naluai, Baynard Kim, Mark Kunimitsu, Sean Kamai, Rufus Kimura, Stanford Aquino, Shawn Eshima, and Scott Kadamoto for their community spirit!



HONORING EXCELLENCE

By Fire Captain William Melemai

The HFD honored several individuals for their outstanding contributions to our Department at The 200 Club's Fire Fighters Luncheon on October 29, 2004, at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel's Monarch Room. Governor Linda Lingle joined an impressive turnout of fire and police personnel, The 200 Club members, and Honolulu Fire Commissioners to witness presentations of the HFD's Manager of the Year, Employee of the Year, and Civilian Employee of the Year awards.

Assistant Chief (AC) Alvin Tomita recognized the following individuals for their 25 years of service: BCs Peter Gaskell and Manuel Neves, Fire Captains Raymond Anami, Alan Calhoun, Stacy Higa, Paul Nishihara, and Paul Noyes, and Fire Fighter IIIs Edward Bruffey and David Friedemann. AC Tomita also presented the Manager of the Year award to BC Rolland Harvest, the Employee of the Year award to Fire Fighter III Richard (Rick) Karasaki Jr., and the Civilian Employee of the Year Award to Fire Equipment Repair Supervisor Dean DeMello.

Rolland Harvest was named Manager of the Year for his exceptional ability to inspire and motivate his fire fighters to perform at a consistently high level, whether training for or responding to fires and other emergencies. His personnel were the impressive winners of the November Fire Fighting Skills Competition due to the serious work ethic he exemplifies for them. He is regarded as "a fireman's fireman" who has the respect and admiration of all who serve with him.

Rick Karasaki was named Employee of the Year for his tireless effort to implement the HFD's Fire Fighter Certification Program. His communication and networking skills were instrumental in bringing key certifying agency representatives to Honolulu to evaluate the HFD and ensure our ability to meet national fire fighting performance standards. The expertise he gained allows him to serve on three national committees: The International Fire Service Accreditation Congress' Promotions Committee, the International Fire Service Training Association's Driver Operator Pumper Committee, and the National Fire Protection Association's 1006 Technical Rescue Committee's Surface Water Rescue.

Dean Demello was named Civilian Employee of the Year for displaying exceptional leadership skill in overseeing the maintenance and repair of "well over 200 fire apparatuses, auxiliary vehicles, boats, rescue craft, and 30,000 pieces of equipment." He performs this same service for the Honolulu Police Department's SWAT mobile command vehicle and other heavy apparatuses. His preventive maintenance programs have saved the City thousands of dollars.

Congratulations to all of the service veterans and award recipients. Your devotion to duty and excellent service to our community brings great pride to our Department, your colleagues, and families.



Karasaki, DeMello, and Harvest

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

30 Years

Alan W. Chong
 Patrick H. Fukuda
 Douglas E. Hooper
 Charles R. Kimak
 Herbert J. Knudsen
 Albert K. McGurn
 Wayne T. Nojiri
 Craig J. Petersen
 Robert F. Reynolds
 Ronald Rico
 Gail S. Sanbei
 Richard Y. Sun Jr.

**25 Years**

M. Roger Goodell
 Scott E. Lee
 Robert W. Marshman
 William H. McClellan
 Gregory L. Poole
 Van M. Tomokiyo
 Ronald K. Yoshimoto

15 Years

Jeffrey K. Lee

10 Years

Alexander J. Adams
 Ethan K. Aea
 Jon E. Barlan
 Mark K. Castagnetti
 Michael G. Chun
 Donald W. Coleman



Michael J. Deponte
 David K. Dougan
 Destry K. Flores
 Guy K. Fujisato
 James M. Hull
 Jay B. Ishihara
 Clarence K. Jenks
 Jason N. Katada
 Jacques J. Kauhane
 Cameron A. Krider
 Alvin K. Ku
 Nalu G. Kukea
 Russell A. Lake
 David K. Leandro
 David Letarte
 Matthew J. Melim
 Kristian C. Naluai
 Derek K. Peterson
 Matthew K. Rigg
 Robert T. Sarae
 Denny P.T. Shim
 Lyndon K. Shima
 Kenneth K. Tenn
 Robert W. Thurston
 Kevin B. Tom
 Garrett M. Valles
 Daniel S. Yamashiro
 Patrick A. Young

**5 Years**

Ryan M. Aoki
 Kevin D. Baker
 David E. Buck
 Glen N. Camp

Andrew R. Cannon
 Edward W. Cheplic
 Peter J. Comilla III
 Clyde B. Custodio
 Lauren K. Hunter
 Kenneth K. Iki
 Kawika S. Ing
 Clifford K. Isa
 Todd K. Isayama
 Sean-Patrick T. Joslin
 Scott K. Kadomoto
 Daniel L. Lauro
 Keith A. Marrero
 Mark A. Miguel
 Shane K. Mizukami
 Vincent K. Mokulehua
 Carlos M. Molina
 Carl R. Nagatori Jr.
 Jacob I. Nakajima
 Julie I. Ono
 Brady G. Perreira
 George E. Pratt
 Gilbert Reyes Jr.
 Ramon R. Romero
 David J. Stackhouse
 Sean Y. Tateishi
 Raymond N. Uyeno
 Anthony K. Villalon
 James E. Winand III
 Rik R. Yanagida
 Gary K. Yasuda
 Reid C. Yoshida
 Douglas G. Youth
 Ricardo A. Zapata



R E T I R E M E N T S

Godfrey Akaka - Fire Captain

November 18, 1974 - November 30, 2004
 28 years

Glenn Chung - Fire Captain

March 16, 1972 - November 30, 2004
 32 years, 8 months

Wayne Fernandez - Fire Captain

July 26, 1976 - November 30, 2004
 28 years, 4 months

**Glenn Sato - Fire Captain**

February 10, 1975 - November 30, 2004
 29 years, 9 months

Scott Jacobs - Fire Fighter III

August 1, 1977 - November 30, 2004
 27 years, 4 months

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following
 personnel who were promoted
 during the 2nd quarter:

FIRE FIGHTER IIs
November 17, 18, 19, 2004

Gardner Kealoha

Jason Mejia

Russell Wong

